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Committee for Programme and Coordination

Fifty-eighth session

4–29 June 2018

Agenda item 7

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-eighth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Benjamin Sieberns (Germany)

I. Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) on 19 April 2018 and its substantive session from 4 to 29 June 2018 at Headquarters. It held 13 formal meetings and numerous informal and “informal informal” consultations, as well as briefings.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the fifty-eighth session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
 - (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2016-2017;
 - (b) Programme planning;
 - (c) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
 - (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
 - (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-eighth session.



Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/2018/L.2/Rev.1), in which it was stated that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003 (LX), the Committee had been invited to select the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Results-based management in the United Nations development system: analysis of progress and policy effectiveness" (A/72/809) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) thereon (A/72/809/Add.1) for consideration at its fifty-eighth session.

Programme of work

4. At the same meeting, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the annotated provisional agenda (E/AC.51/2018/1/Rev.1) and the note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation (E/AC.51/2018/L.1/Rev.1) listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 June, the Committee discussed the possibility of a briefing by the Secretariat on matters pertaining to the expected impact of the United Nations management reform on the work of the Committee. A number of delegations expressed support for the proposal, especially in the broader context of the processes under way that were linked to changes in the development system and the peace and security architecture. Some delegations further observed that, because many delegations came from their capitals, such a briefing would be useful in terms of understanding how the changes to the budget cycle approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/266 would affect the work of the Committee and the preparation of the relevant documentation. Some delegations raised questions concerning the content of and modalities for the briefing.

6. As to the modalities, the Vice-Chair (Eastern European States), speaking on behalf of the Bureau, explained that the Bureau intended to have an informal briefing, in keeping with past practice, which would be focused on technical aspects, such as the process for the preparation of documents and the programme of work, insofar as how those would affect the Committee's work. A delegation explained that briefings, in particular if conducted informally, were aimed at providing information and not intended to require a decision by the Committee.

7. A group of delegations raised the issue of including in the agenda an item pertaining to programme issues, in particular with regard to the new strategic focus and changes in the programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), which had been endorsed at the fifty-first session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in May 2018. A delegation urged the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary documentation regarding the change in the programme plan would be submitted to the Committee for its consideration at the current session.

8. A delegation voiced disagreement with the explanation given by the Secretariat that the new strategic focus of ECA implied a change in mandate and thus required consideration and approval by the Economic and Social Council before the changes to the programme plan could be submitted to the Committee. That delegation stressed that there was no change in mandate and therefore a review by the Committee was required. A number of delegations, seeking further information on procedures followed in past cases, requested that specific examples of precedents be provided. Another delegation requested an in-depth study of the matter.

9. At the same meeting, pending further information from the Secretariat and decisions on the two issues raised, the Committee adopted a programme of work for the first two days of the session, on the understanding that it would later consider the programme of work for the subsequent days.

10. Informal briefings were given by the Secretary of the Committee, on organizational matters; by the Assistant-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, on evaluation issues; and by the Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, on the new programme budget cycle and the Committee and on changes to the ECA programme plan.

B. Election of officers

11. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Yanko Yordanov (Bulgaria) as Vice-Chair and Benjamin Sieberns (Germany) as Rapporteur for the fifty-eighth session.

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Luiz Feldman (Brazil) as Vice-Chair for the session.

13. At its 10th meeting, on 12 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Hae Yun Park (Republic of Korea) as Chair for the session.

14. At its 12th meeting, on 22 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Vusumuzi Ntonga (Zimbabwe) as Vice-Chair for the session.

15. Accordingly, the members of the Bureau for the fifty-eighth session of the Committee were:

Chair:

Hae Yun Park (Republic of Korea)

Vice-Chairs:

Luiz Feldman (Brazil)

Yanko Yordanov (Bulgaria)

Vusumuzi Ntonga (Zimbabwe)

Rapporteur:

Benjamin Sieberns (Germany)

C. Attendance

16. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented on the Committee:

Argentina	Haiti
Bangladesh	India
Belarus	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Botswana	Italy
Brazil	Japan
Bulgaria	Pakistan
Burkina Faso	Peru

Cameroon	Portugal
Chad	Republic of Korea
Chile	Republic of Moldova
China	Russian Federation
Cuba	Senegal
Egypt	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Eritrea	United Republic of Tanzania
France	United States of America
Germany	Zimbabwe

17. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Afghanistan	Mexico
Australia	Morocco
Iraq	Norway
Jamaica	Papua New Guinea
Lebanon	Poland

18. Also present at the session were the Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, the Secretary of CEB and other senior officials of the Secretariat. A representative of the Joint Inspection Unit, Sukai Prom-Jackson, was also present.

19. In addition to in-room representation, the following reports were discussed with relevant representatives through videoconference: the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on results-based management in the United Nations development system: analysis of progress and policy effectiveness (A/72/809); the annual overview report of CEB for 2017 (E/2018/48); and the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluations of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (E/AC.51/2018/2), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (E/AC.51/2018/4), the International Trade Centre (E/AC.51/2018/8), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/AC.51/2018/7), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/AC.51/2018/3) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (E/AC.51/2018/6).

D. Documentation

20. The list of documents before the Committee at its fifty-eighth session is set out in the annex to the present report.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

21. At the 13th meeting, on 29 June, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee (E/AC.51/2018/L.4 and addenda) and the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-ninth session (E/AC.51/2018/L.3).

22. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted its draft report.

23. Also at the same meeting, the delegation of Bangladesh made remarks. Notably, while expressing thanks to the Committee members, in particular Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy and the United States of America, for cooperating in the adoption of the report on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of UNHCR, the delegation emphasized that the return of refugees and forcibly displaced persons in safety and dignity to their country of origin was the most desirable and sustainable solution to any refugee situation and also stressed the need for Member States to cooperate with UNHCR in that regard.

24. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-ninth session and decided that it would be updated in the light of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2018 session and by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

25. Before the closure of the session, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Haiti, the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, Brazil, China, Japan, Bulgaria, Italy, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Pakistan.

Annex

List of documents before the Committee at its fifty-eighth session

A/73/77	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2016-2017
E/AC.51/2018/6	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
E/AC.51/2018/5 and E/AC.51/2018/5/Corr.1	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
E/AC.51/2018/4	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
E/AC.51/2018/8	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the International Trade Centre
E/AC.51/2018/7	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
E/AC.51/2018/3	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
E/AC.51/2018/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
E/2018/48	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2017 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))
E/AC.51/2018/9	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (General Assembly resolution 59/275)
A/72/809	Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled: "Results-based management in the United Nations development system: analysis of progress and policy effectiveness"
and	
A/72/809/Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled: "Results-based management in the United Nations development system: analysis of progress and policy effectiveness"

E/AC.51/2018/L.3	Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Committee (Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII))
E/AC.51/2018/L.4 and addenda	Draft report of the Committee
E/AC.51/2018/INF/1	List of delegations
